

23 September 1968

Meeting with [ ] FI  
 [ ] Staff:

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[ ] stated that there was a strong feeling that Presidential Libraries should contain only what was in the White House during a president's tenure and that agencies should not be asked to contribute.

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[ ] pointed out that efforts should be made to place in the libraries documents of historical value that will reflect CIA's side of the story. The system now being applied should become automatic and efforts should also be made to clean up the mess from the earlier libraries. Historical documents should be placed within CIA when security prevents inclusion in Austin, some place where they will not be subject to periodic purges, carried on for other than historic purposes.

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[ ] cited the 303 Committee papers as an example of what should go into the Library due to the fact that they represent an important presidential instrument and are therefore inseparable from the policy of a given president. Therefore the 303 papers which are not now in the White House belong in the Library.

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The DDI contribution will include a large number of picture boards and an essay on interpretation from NPIC, on which a long time hold will not be imposed because the state of the art changes so rapidly that within 20 years our present methods will be obsolete. OER is preparing a paper on the controversy on the effects of bombings in Vietnam. Here we are forestalled from imposing a length of time limit because of the great numbers of papers already in the White House, including background material on the methods by which judgments were arrived at.

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The time length limitations will vary greatly depending on the varied levels of sensitivity. 50 years seems to be a reasonable selection in view of how long it takes for present personnel to change. [ ] stated that within CS there was some feeling that the material should not be made available at all, but a compromise had been reached between historical availability and lack of sensitivity and 50 years seemed to be a reasonable figure. It was pointed out that CS reporting is already heavily represented in the White House, not only in [ ] reports but also in the President's Daily Brief, etc.

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[ ] suggested for inclusion in the Library in Austin the weekly "Highlights of CS Reporting" which was initiated early in the Johnson administration. This is a digest of the best reports week by week without source or place or date acquired data. It was agreed that these would give scholars an idea of the kind of thinking we reported on and would be of interest as a bibliographical work leading scholars to the right place for further information.

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[ ] is to rewrite the FI memorandum on reporting and will suitably re-edit and shorten the "Records Retention Plan", with an eye toward regarding this as a reference to the kind of things that are present in CIA files which might be of value to a historian. This would be as an

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Discussion was had on whether the DDP Divisions should include reports in any of their submissions since [ ] stated that CIA keeps a record copy of every report permanently. [ ] will ascertain whether this is actually true [ ]

[ ] described the screening process to be followed by the Archives in handling Library contributions and Archives assurances that any restrictions on release of material and length of time limits placed on CIA material will be respected.

The process of release of material to scholars was discussed. Mr. [ ] stated that unless we change our present practices a great deal, scholars requesting access will already have clearances. It will be necessary to determine what they plan to do after they have been given access and we should maintain some editorial hold on what they write. [ ] pointed out that this is very difficult to determine so far in advance. The Agency may for security reasons ask for information on what the scholar is going to use the information for. Again there may be some instances where the Agency ends up being less restrictive in giving access to scholars than the Archivists are. Archives states they will not give access to any one scholar ahead of another. Yet the Agency has many PhDs already cleared who might be given access by the Agency.

[ ] stated that after his trip [ ] he proposes to prepare three memoranda for submission to the DCI: (a) contributions to the LBJ Library and various types of materials which will go or stay; (b) future policy with respect to compiling material for Libraries; (c) the question of going back to determine what is in the older libraries.